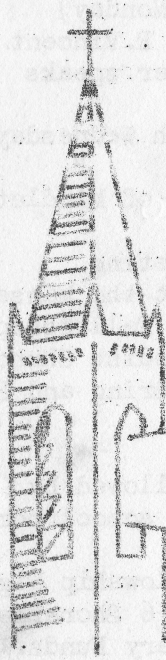
May 1976



The MESSENGER

THE
UNITED
REFORMED
CHURCH

ST. STEPHEN'S & Milnrow Littleborough

Price: 4p

ST. STEPHEN'S DIARY

May

Sun. 2nd	11.00am	Rev. A. Nash
	6.00pm	Service of Word & Sacrament
Mon. 3rd	6.30pm	Pilots (and each Monday)
Tue. 4th	7.30pm	Ladies Guild - Mr R. Vincent A Probation Officer speaks of his work.
Wed. 5th	2.00pm	Young Mums (& each Wednesday)
	7.30pm	Whist Drive " " "
Sun. 9th	11.00am	Mrs E. Richardson of Middleton
	6.00pm	Mrs Nash
Tue. 11th	7.30pm	Care Committee Meeting
Wed. 12th	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting at the Manse
Thu. 13th	7.45pm	United Prayer and Fellowship at Moorhouse Methodist Church
Fri. 14th	7.30pm	Coffee Evening & Bring and Buy Young Mums Effort
Sun. 16th	11.00am	Rev. A. Nash
	6.00pm	SUNDAY SPECIAL followed by "Fellowship Hour" in the schoolroom Everybody bring another.
Mon. 17th	7.30pm	Men's Games & Fellowship Night
Tue. 18th		Coffee Evening at 6 Shorefield Close for Missionary Funds.
Wed. 19th	7.30pm	Junior Church Staff Meeting
Sun. 23rd	11.00am	Mr W. Caffrey of Heywood
	6.00pm	Rev. A. Nash
Tue. 25th	7.30pm	Meet for Ladies Guild Outing
Wed. 26th	7.30pm	Church Meeting in School
Sun. 30th	11.00am	Rev. A. Nash
	6.00pm	Rev. A. Nash

June

Fri. 4th	7.30pm	Sale of Casual Clothes Organised by The Ladies Guild
Sun. 6th	11.00am	
	6.00pm	JUNIOR CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

FLOWERS FOR COMMUNION TABLE

May 2nd	Mrs E. Gowdridge	
9th	Mrs E. Starkie	Mrs E. Prince
16th	Mrs F. Rae	Mrs D. Chadwick
23rd	Mrs E. Busill	Mrs L. Lord
30th	Mrs F. Butterworth	Mrs R. Rothwell

LITTLEBOROUGH

May

Sun. 2nd	10.30am Mr J. Lord
Tue. 4th	7.30pm Busy Bees, Younger Guilders, Coffee evening Victoria Sandwich competition Sale of Seedlings - Admn. 10p
Wed. 5th	6.45pm Pilots
Thu. 6th	7.30pm Men's Fellowship
Sun. 9th	10.30am Rev. A. Nash 6.00pm Communion
Wed.12th	6.45pm Pilots
Sun.16th	10.30am Mrs Nash
Mon.17th	CHRISTIAN AID WEEK - collectors wanted Please see Mr Nash
Tue.18th	7.30pm Birthday Supper
Wed.19th	6.45pm Pilots
Sun.23rd	10.30am Rev.A.Nash Family Communion
Mon.24th	7.30pm Church Meeting
Thu.27th	7.30pm Men's Fellowship A.G.M.
Sun.30th.	10.30am Mr J.M.Farraday

June

Sun. 6th	10.30am WHIT SUNDAY - United Service at our church with Victoria Street Methodists.

From The Manse,

May, 1976

My dear friends,

At some time or other when visiting London almost everyone goes to the great museums in South Kensington and from what I have observed over many years of taking parties of children around them, the Science Museum seems to be the greatest favourite of all, with the Natural History Museum as a close runner-up. Perhaps the fascination of the Science Museum has for children is that you can press the buttons or turn the handles and see the model machines work, or the film start.

Just inside the door of the Science Museum there is a roped-off area within which a metal ball swings. This is called Foucalt's Pendulum. It shows the rotation of the earth. The floor beneath the swinging ball has been marked out in degrees from zero which corresponds to the straight line through the centre. Freely suspended from the roof by a thin steel wire the heavy weight of the ball sweeps silently back and forth, its swing being always in the same line. Beneath it the earth turns on its axis so that the amount of movement can be read off on the scale on the floor. Every few hours an attendant has to reset the pendulum to zero or else it would be swinging almost across the entrance hall.

Just as Foucalt's Pendulum demonstrates the rotation of the earth, so Jesus Christ has demonstrated God's intention for man. Man belongs with God to the realm of personal being, and as a person he has reason, awareness of right and wrong, and the power to choose. Above all, he has the capacity to know God and to live in fellowship with Him. So also man, who is like God in being a person, is meant to become like God in spirit and character. This is God's

purpose for each one of us and is summed up in what Christians call the Gospel. This is Good News, not only of God's forgiveness to the repentant but of our being made into the likeness of His Spirit.

Foucalt's Pendulum reveals that of which we are normally unaware. Jesus Christ reveals the purpose of God to bring men to Himself. Both proceed silently and continually. God is at work in many ways.

May His blessing be yours,

Your sincere friend,

ALFRED NASH.

Thought for the month:

"And now I commend you to God and to His gracious word, which has power to build you up and give you your heritage among all who are dedicated to Him".

Acts 20 v.32.

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In Memoriam

GEORGE FORRESTER, of the Petrus Community, Rochdale.

The funeral at Rochdale Cemetery on Tuesday, April 13th, was conducted by Rev. A. Nash.

We commend George to God's gracious care and keeping.

MISTAKES

Mistakes are lessons of wisdom.
The past cannot be changed,
The future is yet in your power.

Hugh White.

HOLY BAPTISM

On Sunday March 21st at St. Stephen's --

EMMA LOUISE

daughter of John and Anne Worsley., 18 Bowland Grove.

On Sunday April 4th, at St. Stephen's --

ANTHONY JOHN

son of Raymond and Lynne Walker, 14 Bowland Grove.

We welcome these little ones into the family of the Church. May God's blessing rest on both children and parents.

.....

D-Day for "The Last Fling"

The final effort for the Heating Fund is being referred to as "The Last Fling" and you are urged to bring in a gift for this on Anniversary Sunday on June 6th. We are aiming at £600 and to date have raised just over £500. May we take this opportunity of saying "thank you" to all who have contributed in any way to the Heating Fund.

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POLICEMAN'S WIFE FOLLOWED BY MAN ON PROBATION

At last month's Ladies Guild Mrs Audrey Baines gave a "getting-to-know-you" talk and members joined in a Competition Night which was an occasion for much laughter.

The next Guild Night will be on Tuesday May 4th when Mr Roy Vincent of our Littleborough Church will speak to us about his work as a Probation Officer. This should be an interesting session so please come and enjoy a thought provoking evening with us. The Ladies Guild (officially, the Women's Guild) is open to ladies of all ages; there are no barriers here.

CASTLETON CARIBBEAN

The District Missionary Rally held at Castleton URC was enjoyed by all who attended. Five churches took part and each represented a different part of the world. St. Stephens contribution was about life in the Caribbean and so for ten minutes we endeavoured to transport our audience to those sunny islands.

Mrs Baines and Mrs Howarth contributed an outline talk on lives and conditions in that area and then Mark Baines read a story about a Jamaican girl who was helped by the Christian Church on St. Kitts. Ten of our Primary Girls with garlands of flowers round their necks then sang a calypso to the accompaniment of Mildred on the guitar, Mark on the bongo and the girls with their shakers.

Our display of Caribbean life included fresh lemon juice and pieces of coconut which the audience enjoyed as an aperatif before a delicious tea provided by the Castleton Ladies and then a film was shown entitled "Mission to all and each."

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SOMETHINGS AFOOT

Dont forget about the Pedestrian Treasure Hunt to be held on June 12th. An event not to be missed out of your diaries.

More details in the next "Messenger".

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OPEN THE BOX

Missionary boxes are to be opened on May 16th. Dont forget to bring yours in, please.

Wednesdays at 2.00p.m.

The Young Mums' Programme for May is as follows:

5th - "Going for a song" (based on the T.V. programme).
Mrs A. Turner will open the afternoon with devotions.

12th - "This happened to me...." a time for members to bring along any funny (or otherwise) incident which has come their way.
Afternoon opened by Mrs C. Hey.

19th - Beetle Afternoon.
Opened by Mrs B. Sharples.

26th - A talk about Old Milnrow.....
Afternoon opened by Mrs M. Nash

N.B. Friday May 14th - please support this effort - a Coffee Evening, Sale of Work, bring and Buy.... From 7pm. The members have been and still are working hard for this event - book the date and be there -- with your money!

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PILOTS MYSTERY TOUR

"On Monday 12th April the Pilots who had not gone to camp went to the church. We got on a coach and set off. We did not know where we were going. We had to find out for ourselves.

Gillian and I found out where we were when we were inside Townley Hall at Burnley.

Us girls went for a walk while the boys played football. Then we had our sandwiches and some of us sat on a wall and some sat on the coach to eat them. Then we looked round Townley Hall and did a quiz. We had to rush back because it was closing.

We played out for a bit, then we got on the coach. All the way home we sang songs.

Thank you for taking us."

Pamela Jane Rothwell.

C O F F E E E V E N I N G

in aid of

C. W. M.

Tuesday 18th May 7-9p.m.

at

6 Shorefield Close, Ashes Estate, the home of Mr & Mrs A. Sharples

FRIENDSHIP

You have to work at friendship
Like a gardener with his flowers.
Cherish the tiny buds of love,
Treasure the happy hours,
Plant loving seeds for future bloom,
Pluck out the weeds and tares,
Water the soil with loving deeds
And firm it down with prayers.

You have to work at friendship
With a tenderness and zeal,
Drawing your friends into your heart
With roots as strong as steel,
Shaping the growth with loving thought
As careful gardeners do,
If love and peace and happiness
Will ever bloom for you.

For a friendship is a tender plant
Of bud and root and wine,
Frail as the mist above the hills
Fragrant as myrrh and pine,
Rooted in earth its branches reach
Beyond the farthest sea,
Yet clings in little tender words
Between my friend and me.
And like all worthwhile things it pays
Dividends in a hundred ways.

.....

NO PLACE FOR CROCS.

You would not expect to find Crocodiles, Birds of Paradise and Cockatoo on the Wirral, but they flourished there just before Easter. So, for that matter, did less well-known species such as Gheko, Goanna and Cuscus, to say nothing of Flying Fox. Yes, it has been a very mild winter but No, they haven't opened a wildlife park. If you want to know how such curiosities come about, ask a Pilot.

All the above creatures are to be found in Papua New Guinea and they were introduced to the children at the Pilot Camp at Barnston Dale by missionaries, Mr & Mrs Dunstone and the Pilots learned much else beside about life in that far off place. For example, if you hear your children talking about "Kai Kai" they are asking for food in Papuan, and not Cockney; and how about this to twist your tongue -

"Papa bilong mipela yu i stap long heven.
Kingdome bilong yu i mas i kam
Laik bilong yu, ol i bi hainim long heven.
Olsom tasol mipela i mas bi hainim long graun tu.
Nau yu givim mipela kai kai inap long dispela de.
Na yu lusim al sin bilong mipela olseni mipela tu i lusim pinis sin bilong ol man i bin rongim mipela.
Na yu no bringim mipela long samting bi long traim mipela, tasol tekewe mipela long samting nogut.
Kingdom na strong na glori em i bilong yu tasol oltaim altaim. Tru." --

There were over 90 Pilots at the camp, including the usual Littleborough contingent and, for the first time, 5 Pilots and 2 Adults from St. Stephens. The Pilots were divided into teams or "Watches" named after creatures mentioned at the start of this article and seem to have been kept busy throughout the five days of the camp. There were chores to be done such as washing up and tidying dormitories (yes, mum he/she. really is capable of this). There were skills to be learned like Handyman, First Aid (not necessarily related) and Needlework for some sew and sews.

In an unsuccessful attempt to drain off the last ounce of surplus energy from the youngsters, the officers also arranged a number of recreational activities. There was a scavanger hunt, for instance, in which fifty items had to be found,

including a 4" worm, the names of 50 states of America and suitable materials for making a monster and a kite that actually worked.

Even more energetic was the rounders match Officers v Pilots, in which, to everyones surprise, experience and low cunning triumphed over youthful exuberance by 16 points to 6. Even the officer known as "Camp Dad" (ostensibly there to comfort the children when necessary) humiliated them by hitting half a dozen rounders personally.

There were also a couple of outings. One to Chester Zoo to see the rain, the reindeer and to monkey around. The other to Heswall near Barnston Dale. The purpose of this latter visit seems to have been to encourage the Pilots to spend some money and we understand that Heswall Woolworths have now been saved from bankruptcy by a boom in the sale of sweets and tiny teddy bears. This major injection of capital into the Heswallian economy was made possible by the financial resources marshalled by The Camp Bank into which each Pilot was required to deposit spending money on arrival and withdraw on a day by day basis.

Bed time was supposed to be at 9.45pm for the younger ones and 10.15pm for those a little older. Sleep time was always before 1.15am, depending when the feast or the songs ran out.

In the final session, awards were presented to officers: e.g. nappy pins for Camp Dad and Deep Heat for those with muscle ache.

Thanks are extended to all those who helped to make the camp a fantastic success, including those who chauffered, and especially to Mr & Mrs Munday (Milnrow) and Mrs Vincent (Littleborough) who are now recuperating.

AN OLD, OLD STORY

Once again the Editor must apologise to readers in Littleborough for the dearth of news from Victoria Street,

Mrs. Hill tells me that last month there were complaints of a glut of Milnrow items. I deny this; count the pages and you will agree with me. HOWEVER, just to make absolutely sure that the good folk of Littleborough obtain their money's worth, next month is

"Glut of Littleborough News month"

- No item of less than one page length will be cut.
- Items for which space cannot be provided will appear in the next addition.
- Any item marked "Do not alter", will not be altered.
- If successful the exercise can be repeated whenever you wish.
- This scheme does not apply only to Kathleen Hill; her job and mine are a lot easier if YOU write the news.
- This suggestion, therefore, applies to YOU. Simply submit your item to Mrs Hill by the deadline date.

So there!!!

SCARBOROUGH FAIR FOR THE FAIR AUDREY

The Busy Bees and Younger Guilders had a night out recently to say goodbye to Audrey Walls. Mr & Mrs Walls and family are off to reside in Scarborough where we trust they will be very happy in their new home and make lots of friends. On behalf of the church we would like to extend our thanks to Audrey for her work particularly as pulpit supply secretary and wish her God Speed.

ON THE STREETS : OFF THE STREETS

Unfortunately the weather was appalling when six of our stalwarts did the annual house to house collection for the National Children's Home. They had to brave a very cold, damp and windy clime but managed nevertheless to raise £45.35. Please think about giving a lift with this next year.

SALE OF THE CENTURY

The branded seconds evening organised by the Busy Bees and Younger Guilders raised £60.70 which was a very creditable total. Part of the proceeds have been used to purchase additional carpeting and a new vacuum cleaner for the church, so it really looks as if the ladies made a "pile" (Ah, ah, Editor - as they used to say in the 'Dandy').

Never have so many ladies crammed into such a small space to purchase so much good stuff in such a short time. A debt of gratitude is owed to those who brewed and brewed until they were blue in the face; served and served as hard as Billy Jean King and washed up and washed up until they were washed out. This really was an "effort" in the true sense of the word. Congratulations are also extended to our star ticket seller, Barbara McCormick who sold a vast number of tickets and a hearty thank you goes to those who came along and bought.

Well done all!!

THE INDISPENSABLE MAN

Sometimes when you are feeling important,
Sometimes when your ego is in bloom,
Sometimes when you take it for granted
You're the best qualified in the room.
Sometimes when you feel your going
would leave an unfillable hole;
Just follow this simple instruction
And see how it humbles your soul.

Take a bucket and fill it with water,
Put your hand in - up to the wrist,
Take it out and the hole that's remaining
is a measure of how you'll be missed.

You can splash all you can as you enter,
You can stir up the water galore,
But stop, and you'll find in a minute
that it looks quite the same as before.
There's a moral in this quaint expression,
Just do the best that you can.
Be proud of yourself - but remember
There is no indispensable man.

CHURCH DUTIES - LITTLEBOROUGH

DOOR STEWARDS

May 2nd	R. Mullen	Mrs Stott	
9th	J. Nairn	J. Lord	a.m.
			p.m.
16th	J. Holt	J. Hill	
23rd	F. Beattie	Mrs Crossley	
30th	E. Holt	Mrs Stott	
Jun 6th	H.N. Hill	R. Mullen	

ELDERS COMMUNION ROTA

May 9th	Mr F. Beattie	Mr F. Simpson	p.m.
23rd	Mr J. Lord	Mr J. Nairn	a.m.

COFFEE ROTA

May 2nd	A. Merrick	K. Hill
9th	W. Law	J. Law
16th	J. Hobbs	W. Spinks
23rd	B. Allison	J. Allison
30th	S. Moss	B. Holt
Jun 6th	P. Mullen	K. Hill

FAMILY CHURCH READINGS

May 2nd	R. Mullen
9th	M. Grindrod
16th	M.G. Hill
23rd	P. Lightfoot
30th	M. Law
Jun. 6th	WHIT SUNDAY UNITED SERVICE

Persons unable to take their appointments as listed are expected to find a suitable substitute

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FLOWERS FOR COMMUNION TABLE

May 2nd	Mrs Mullen
9th	Mrs Jowett
16th	Mrs Arthur
23rd	Mrs Macaulay
30th	Mrs F. Simpson
Jun. 6th	Mrs Law

CHURCH DUTIES - MILNROW

FAMILY CHURCH DOOR STEWARDS

May	2nd	Mrs F. Rae	Mrs P. Royle
	9th	Mrs J. Calow and family	
	16th	Mrs M. Holden	Kenneth Holden
	23rd	Mr. J. Harrison	Mr. I. Royle
	30th	Mr. J. Collins	Stephen Collins
Jun.	6th	Mr. G. Buckley	Mr A. Rae

ELDERS ROTA MAY

	EVENING DOOR STEWARDS	DUTY ELDER	ORGANIST/PIANIST EVENING WORSHIP
2nd	Mr. Clough	Mrs M. Howarth	Mr D. Logan
9th	Mr. A. Sharples	Mr B. Clough	
16th	Mr. D. Munday	Mr H. Whitehead	
23rd	Mr A. Busill	Mr J. Wild	
30th	Mr H. Whitehead	Mr A. Busill	
Jun. 6th	Mr J. Wild	Mr D. Munday	

COMMUNION ROTA

May 2nd Mrs M. Howarth Mrs D. Munday

FAMILY CHURCH COFFEE ROTA

May	2nd	Mrs Munday	Mrs M. Ogden
	9th	Mrs Smith	Mrs Buckley
	16th	Mrs Busill	Miss I. Tither
	23rd	Mrs Whitehead	Mrs Greenhalgh
	30th	Mrs Calow	Mrs Garside
Jun.	6th	Mrs Duffy	Mrs Butterworth

Persons unable to take their appointment as listed are expected to find a suitable substitute

COLLECTIONS FOR MARCH

	cash			
	am.	pm.	Envelopes	Total
7th	9.52	1.80	18.72½	30.04½
14th	8.65	1.05	12.12½	21.82½
21st	7.86½	1.52	11.93½	21.32
28th	12.27	1.47	14.48½	28.22½
	£38.30½	£5.84	£57.27	£101.41½

BIBLE READINGS FOR MAY

2nd	The Church is people	Romans 16 v.16-20
9th	Called by faith	John 1 v.40-51
16th	Christians described	1 Peter 2 v. 7-17
23rd	Mission in six continents abroad	Matt. 28 v.1-16
30th	God is your brother	1 John 4 v. 7-21

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The Manse
196 Harbour Lane
Milnrow

Tel: ROCHDALE 50163

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